

years ago to less than \$120 billion today. We should not give up on deficit reduction. Until we balance the budget, every dollar in new tax cuts not paid for is borrowed from our children.

Conclusion. The current national debate on tax cuts is a healthy one. We need an informed policy debate, going beyond the rhetoric and slogans, looking at the details of the specific plans, looking at the hard numbers, and carefully assessing the impact on the overall economy. I favor a simpler and fairer tax system, one that improves—rather than worsens—the lot of ordinary Hoosiers.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LADD ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE AMERICAN LE-
GION POST 183

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that we can never thank our veterans enough for putting their lives on the line in defense of our Nation. As a veteran myself, I am aware of the tremendous service veterans organizations give to their communities and the country as a whole.

For this reason, I am proud to rise today and recognize Mr. Robert Ladd of American Legion Post 183, Pemberville, OH, on the occasion of his 50 years of service to the post. Robert is a veteran of World War II and has been the post's finance officer since 1962.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Ladd's distinguished military service is a model of patriotism and citizenship. His commitment to the American Legion continues this exemplary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert and his family well as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

May they fully enjoy the blessings of peace and freedom that Robert Ladd has so ably defended as a U.S. veteran.

DESCENDANTS' DAY
PROCLAMATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit this declaration by Trust for the Future to the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the work of Trust for the Future and its president, Charles A. Howell III.

Be it known by all present, that, from this day forward, the last Sunday of June is to be known as Descendants' Day. Henceforth, this shall be the day in each year when all the world's citizens take an accounting of their activities during the preceding year which have impacted our descendants and our neighbors across time.

Be it further proclaimed, that the ultimate goal of this endeavour is to reach the day when we can celebrate a year where the consequences of our actions have no measurable negative impact on our descendants and neighbors across time and instead we can measure the residual impact of our human activities and find them to be undeniably sustainable and beneficial.

We aspire to encourage others around the world to join in this yearly celebration of courageous accountability in the sure knowledge that we will be followed, as we have been preceded, by billions of persons who will either damn us or praise us for the efforts we may or may not expend on their behalf.

Whatever the consequences may be to our present generations we must immediately recognize this opportunity for high service to those we will never know or who will never look up to us in love and gratitude for our steadfastness in this effort. We ask the God of all Humankind to help us achieve our high calling for we can only be successful if we have Divine Guidance and Undergirding.

On this the Eleventh day of the Ninth month in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six, we affirm our desire to pursue this course with all diligence and hereunto set our hand.

TRIBUTE TO RETIREES OF STER-
LING HEIGHTS FIRE DEPART-
MENT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 27, I will be privileged to attend the 10th annual dinner dance held by the Sterling Heights Fire Fighters Union Local No. 1557. Five retiring firefighters will be recognized on that occasion. Among them are distinguished captains, and a fire inspector, training chief, and fire marshal—all recipients of honor awards and letters of gratitude. Together they have given over 123 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the city of Sterling Heights. Repeatedly over the past three decades each of them has unselfishly risked his life to protect the safety and property of Sterling Heights residents.

The Sterling Heights Fire Department doesn't just fight fires—they are called upon by the community for other kinds of service, too. And so these men will also be remembered for their individual qualities—for fine drawing work on fire pumper proposals, for fine departmental photographic work, for the quality of prayer offered and a divine singing voice when it was needed, for their work on previous retirement parties, and for citizen training and community open house participation.

Mr. Speaker, I mention each individual firefighter's name and years of service today so that all Americans will know of their outstanding contribution and commitment to the people of Sterling Heights and surrounding communities: Capt. David W. Hagen, hired as a fireman January 15, 1973, died October 31, 1995—in memoriam; Chief of Training John Frisch, hired as a fireman August 23, 1971; Fire Inspector Bruce N. Cann, hired as a fireman January 4, 1971; Capt. Edward J. Burley, hired as a fireman January 4, 1971; and Inspector John (Jack) Swiatkowski, hired as a fireman January 4, 1971.

Jack and Marge Swiatkowski, have been friends of mine for many years. They have been active in government—Marge is a former Commissioner, the community, and the union for a long time. I offer special congratulations to him.

These gentlemen have earned the appreciation and respect of their community. Mr.

Speaker, for this dedication, and uncommon valor, I pay tribute to these gentlemen and I join my neighbors in saluting them on the occasion of their retirement.

HONORING LOU LAWLER

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lou Lawler, a community leader in my congressional district and a true heroine to many of us. Lou has brightened the lives of her neighbors in La Porte, TX, through a lifetime of selfless service, and she has touched the lives of seafarers from around the world through her work at the Barbour's Cut Seafarers Center, which provides a home away from home for seafarers passing through the busy Port of Houston. I can think of no more appropriate way to honor Lou than by renaming the center the Lou Lawler Seafarers Center, and I am proud to join so many others in our community in congratulating and thanking Lou as she is so honored this Friday, September 13, 1996.

Lou has been active in her community from the day she arrived in La Porte with her husband Jack in 1947. She has been an adviser to mayors, Members of Congress, and Governors. Organizations in which she has been active have included the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Rehabilitation Foundation for East Harris County, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and Air National Guard. As a lifetime member of the PTA, she has worked tirelessly to improve our schools. As a member of the First United Methodist Church of La Porte, she serves on the inter-church council and the social concerns committee. She served on the board of directors of La Porte State Bank and Charter Bank. She has been an election precinct chairman for years. And in 1981, she became the first woman president of the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce.

But such lists alone do not come close to doing her justice to Lou Lawler. They do not do justice to her tireless energy, her amazing creativity, her can-do attitude, and her tremendous love.

These qualities are most evident in Lou's work with the seafarers center, which she helped establish in 1983. The center likely would not exist at all if not for Lou's unflagging efforts, and it has flourished because of her. The center provides many necessary services, from the spiritual to the medical to the social, for the more than 100,000 seafarers who pass each year through the Port of Houston, the busiest trade port in the United States. The seafarers center truly does provide a home away from home for these seafarers, and it better enables the port to serve its vital function in our region's economy.

Lou Lawler has done just about everything at the seafarers center, from volunteering to serving as chairman of the board. She currently serves as vice president of the Houston International Seafarers Center and is a board member of the North American Maritime Ministry Association. She was one of the first women to graduate from the Seafarers Center's Chaplaincy Training School. In 1992, Lou